

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL SOUTHERN ZONE BENCH
AT CHENNAI**

OA No 19 OF 2025
(Earlier in OA 1321 of 2024 PB)

IN THE MATTER OF:

**NEWS ITEM IN THE DECCAN CHRONICLE, EDITION DATED 16.11.2024,
TITLED "ALARMING DECLINE IN MANGROVE FORESTS AMID VIZAG'S
GROWTH".**

..... Applicant

Vs

ANDHRA PRADESH POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD & OTHERS

.... Respondents

REPORT FILED BY THE APPCB 1ST RESPONDENT

DATE - 29.01.2025



**M/s MADHURI DONTI REDDY
ADVOCATE**

STANDING COUNSEL FOR GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH

A.P. POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

#26, S2, Royal Castle, Gill Nagar Extension, Choolaimedu, Chennai – 600 094.

Mobile: 98407 98460 / 63831 21322,
Email: reddymadhuri09@gmail.com

BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL

PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI

Original Application No. 1321/2024


News Item titled "Alarming decline in mangrove forests amid vizag's growth" appearing in the Deccan Chronicle dated 16.11.2024

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It is certified that all the documents contained in the above annexure are true copies.

Place: Visakhapatnam
Dt: 09.01.2025


Environmental Engineer,
APPCB, Regional Office,
Visakhapatnam
Environmental Engineer
A.P. Pollution Control Board
Regional Office, Visakhapatnam

Report in compliance with the Hon'ble NGT, Principal Bench, New Delhi vide Order dated 22.11.2024 in Original Application No. 1321 of 2024(PB) on the News Item titled "Alarming decline in mangrove forests amid vizag's growth" appearing in the Deccan Chronicle dated 16.11.2024.

It is to submit that the Hon'ble NGT, Principal Bench, New Delhi registered *suo-motu case* based on the News Item titled "Alarming decline in mangrove forests amid vizag's growth" appearing in the Deccan Chronicle dated 16.11.2024 and impleaded the Member Secretary, A.P. Pollution Control Board, the District Magistrate, Visakhapatnam and others as respondents and directed to file their response/ reply by way of affidavit before the Southern Zonal Bench of the Tribunal at least one week before the next date of hearing and also transferred the matter to the Southern Zonal Bench, Chennai. Copy of the Hon'ble NGT Order dated 22.11.2024 is submitted as Annexure-A.

In this regard, it is to submit that the Collector & District Magistrate, Visakhapatnam district vide proceedings dated 14.08.2024 has constituted a committee with the following members in connection to the Hon'ble NGT, New Delhi in OA No. 881 of 2024:

1.	District Forest Officer, Forest Department, Visakhapatnam	Chairman
2.	Revenue Divisional Officer, Visakhapatnam	Member
3.	Municipal Commissioner, Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation, Visakhapatnam	Member
4.	VC & MD, Visakhapatnam Metropolitan Region Development Authority, Visakhapatnam	Member
5.	Joint Director, Fisheries Department, Visakhapatnam	Member
6.	Superintending Engineer, Department of Irrigation, Visakhapatnam.	Member
7.	Environmental Engineer, Regional Office,	Member


Environmental Engineer
A.P. Pollution Control Board
Regional Office, Visakhapatnam

	A.P. Pollution Control Board, Visakhapatnam	
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The committee was directed to submit detailed report duly mentioning remedial measures/plan of action on the following so as to submit the report to the Hon'ble NGT:

- i. Assessing the impact on the Mangrove stretches in Visakhapatnam due to rapid urbanization / industrialization as alleged in the news article, especially in the following areas a) Meghadrigedda drain & b) Gosthani river mouth near Bheemili.
- ii. Suggesting remedial measures / plan of action to revive the coastal mangroves in the identified stretches.

Copy of the Collector & District Magistrate, Visakhapatnam district vide proceedings dated 14.08.2024 is submitted as Annexure-B.

The District Forest Officer, IFS requested the committee members vide letter Rc. No. 822/2024-S2 dated 19.08.2024, to attend the joint survey on 23.08.2024 to visit 04 locations viz., 1. Visakhapatnam Port Trust 2. Mulakuddu village, Bheemunipatnam Mandal 3. Meghadrigedda drain flowing into Bay of Bengal and 4. Naval Dockyard bridge to areas like Sheelanagar and Gnanapuram to submit detail report to the Collector & District Magistrate. Copy of the DFO letter dated 19.08.2024 submitted as Annexure-C.

As per the proceedings, the committee members along with the VPA representatives inspected the Meghadrigedda drain and Gosthani river mouth near Bheemili and submitted Joint Committee report to the Collector & District Magistrate, Visakhapatnam District. Copy of the Joint Committee Report is herewith submitted as Annexure-D. Further, the Joint Committee suggested the following suggestions and conclusions and to direct the relevant authorities for timely implementation:

Suggestions:

- The practices above mentioned would help rejuvenate the mangroves within VPA limits by providing protection against adverse impacts of tropical cyclones and associated wave surges.


 Environmental Engineer
 A.P. Pollution Control Board
 Regional Office, Visakhapatnam 2


- Will improve the quality of mangroves and enhances the greenery and biodiversity that also supports the marine ecosystem.
- Safeguard the last surviving mangrove patch of the city and provide potential habitats for winter migrants and various endangered bird species.
- Necessary actions would help display commitment of VPA authorities towards sustainable development and strengthen fight against climate change.
- A 2023 study by the ICFRE-CEC identified 220 hectares of mangrove patches in the Visakhapatnam district, but these were not included in the Forest Survey of India report needs to be included in FSI report.

Conclusion:

The committee strongly recommends immediate action to address the degradation of mangrove ecosystems in Visakhapatnam. The proposed measures, if implemented effectively, will not only restore the mangroves but also safeguard the region against future environmental challenges. VPA shall ensure that there is no violation of the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, CRZ Rules 1991 and Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

This report is submitted for kind consideration and will abide by all such directions as the Hon'ble Tribunal may deem fit and appropriate.

Place: Visakhapatnam
Dt.09.01.2025


Environmental Engineer,
APPCB, Regional Office,
Visakhapatnam
Environmental Engineer
A.P. Pollution Control Board
Regional Office, Visakhapatnam

Item No. 03

Court No. 1

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI**

Original Application No. 1321/2024

News Item titled "Alarming decline in mangrove forests amid vizag's growth" appearing in the Deccan Chronicle dated 16.11.2024

Date of hearing: 22.11.2024

**CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE PRAKASH SHRIVASTAVA, CHAIRPERSON
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ARUN KUMAR TYAGI, JUDICIAL MEMBER
HON'BLE DR. A. SENTHIL VEL, EXPERT MEMBER**

ORDER

1. This original application is registered *suo-motu* on the basis of the news item titled "Alarming decline in mangrove forests amid vizag's growth" appearing in the Deccan Chronicle dated 16.11.2024.

2. The matter relates to the severe decline in Vishakhapatnam's vital mangrove forests, due to rapid development and urbanization. As per the article, the once sprawling coastal ecosystems have now been reduced to mere patches, raising serious concerns among environmentalists about coastal protection and biodiversity loss.

3. The news item highlights that the loss of mangroves poses a serious risk to both coastal protection and biodiversity, as mangroves play a crucial role in preventing shoreline erosion and providing habitat for various bird species. It is alleged that the number of mangrove and halophyte patches has sharply decreased over the years. In 1989, there were six mangrove patches and seven halophyte patches; by 2008, halophyte patches had reduced to four, while mangrove patches remained at six. However, by 2023, the number of mangrove patches had dwindled to just three, even as the number of halophyte patches increased to seven.

4. Furthermore, it is stated that the impact on bird biodiversity has been particularly severe. Previously, these areas supported remarkable avian diversity: 66 species at the Gosthani River mouth, 93 species at another location along the same river, 159 species downstream at Meghadri Gedda, 90 species at a nearby water body, 88 species near Vizag Airport, and 99 species near the Visakhapatnam Port Trust mangroves. Alarmingly, the usual arrival of migratory birds in mid-November 2023 was not observed, indicating a disturbing change in these crucial habitats.

5. Moreover, The Meghadri Gedda area, which flows into the Bay of Bengal near Visakhapatnam Harbour, exemplifies this decline. Once flourishing with mangroves, the area from the Naval Dockyard to the Meghadri Gedda reservoir near the Visakhapatnam International Airport has been significantly reduced, primarily due to construction debris and encroachment. The article alleges that despite conservation efforts, including a 2016 initiative by the Visakhapatnam Port Trust to restore mangroves over 50 acres, progress has been minimal. The Gosthani river mouth mangroves in Bheemili have dwindled to approximately 150-200 individual plants.

6. The news item also highlights a 2023 study by the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education-Coastal Ecosystem Centre (ICFRE-CEC) identified around 220 hectares of mangrove patches in the district, which were not included in the Forest Survey of India's biennial mapping.

7. The above matter indicates violation of the provisions of the Coastal Regulation Zone Notifications, 2011; Biodiversity Act, 2002; Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 and the Environment Protection Act, 1980.

8. The news item raises substantial issue relating to compliance of the environmental norms and implementation of the provisions of scheduled enactment.

9. Power of the Tribunal to take up the matter *suo-motu* has been recognized by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the matter of "*Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai vs. Ankita Sinha & Ors.*" reported in 2021 SCC Online SC 897.

10. Hence, we implead the following as respondents:

(i) Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board, Through its Member Secretary

A.P. Pollution Control Board, D.No. 33-26-14 D/2, Near Sunrise Hospital, Pushpa Hotel Centre, Chalamalavari Street, Kasturibaipet, Vijayawada – 520010

(ii) Central Pollution Control Board, Through its Member Secretary

Central Pollution Control Board, Parivesh Bhawan, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi – 110032

(iii) Andhra Pradesh Coastal Zone Management Authority, Through its Member Secretary

AP Coastal Zone Management Authority, Department of Environment, Forests, Science & Technology Secretariat, Velagapudi, Amaravati – 522503

(iv) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, (Regional Office)

Regional Office (South Eastern Zone), 1st and 2nd Floor, Handloom Export Promotion Council 34, Cathedral Garden Road, Nungambakkam, Chennai – 600034

(v) Visakhapatnam Urban Development Authority, Through its Vice Chairman

Udyog Bhavan Complex, Siripuram Junction,
Visakhapatnam – 530003

**(vi) Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education,
Through its Director General**

P.O. New Forest, Dehradun – 248006

(vii) District Magistrate, Visakhapatnam

Collectorate Complex, Maharanipecta, Visakhapatnam -
530002

11. Issue notice to the above respondents for filing their response/reply by way of affidavit before the Southern Zonal Bench of the Tribunal at least one week before the next date of hearing. If any respondent directly files the reply without routing it through his advocate then the said respondent will remain virtually present to assist the Tribunal.

12. Since the matter relates to the Southern Zonal Bench, Chennai, therefore, OA is transferred to the Southern Zonal Bench. Therefore, the original record of this OA be transferred to the Southern Zonal Bench, Chennai for further action.

13. List before Southern Zonal Bench at Chennai on 10.01.2025.

Prakash Shrivastava, CP

Arun Kumar Tyagi, JM

Dr. A. Senthil Vel, EM

November 22, 2024
Original Application No. 1321/2024
A..

Proceedings No. Committee/OA.No.881 of 2024 dated 05.05.2023

**Present: M.N.Harendhira Prasad IAS
Collector & District Magistrate, Visakhapatnam**

Sub: National Green Tribunal Original No. 881/2024 Suo motu news item published in The New Indian Express dated 25.06.2024 titled "Rapid urbanisation takes toll on Mangroves in Vizag" - Committee constituted - Reg.,

Ref: 1. The Hon'ble NGT Order dated 23.07.2024 in OA No. 881/2024.
2. Rc No. 822/2024/S2 dated 02.08.2024 of the District Forest Officer, Visakhapatnam.

The National Green Tribunal, New Delhi has registered a *suo-motu case* on the basis of the news item titled "Rapid urbanization takes toll on Mangroves in Vizag" which appeared in The New Indian Express dated 25.06.2024.

The matter relates to significant reduction in the Mangrove stretches in Vishakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh due to rapid urbanization and industrialization. As per the article, these vital ecosystems have been reduced to a few small patches and are now threatened by ongoing development. The article highlights the crucial role mangroves play in protecting shorelines from erosion and providing habitat for diverse wildlife.

The Hon'ble NGT in its Order dated 23.07.2024 in OA No. 881/2024 implead (vi) District Magistrate, Visakhapatnam, for filing response before the appropriate bench of the Tribunal in this matter.

In this regard, a Committee is hereby constituted with the following members:

1.	District Forest Officer, Forest Department, Visakhapatnam	Chairman
2.	Revenue Divisional Officer, Visakhapatnam	Member
3.	Municipal Commissioner, Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation, Visakhapatnam	Member
4.	VC & MD, Visakhapatnam Metropolitan Region Development Authority, Visakhapatnam	Member
5.	Joint Director, Fisheries Department, Visakhapatnam	Member
6.	Superintending Engineer, Department of Irrigation, Visakhapatnam.	Member
7.	Environmental Engineer, Regional Office, A.P. Pollution Control Board, Visakhapatnam	Member

The committee is directed to submit detailed report duly mentioning remedial measures/plan of action on the following so as to submit a report to the Hon'ble NGT:

- i. Assessing the impact on the Mangrove stretches in Visakhapatnam due to rapid urbanization / industrialization as alleged in the news article, especially in the following areas a) Meghadrigedda drain & b) Gosthani river mouth near Bheemili.
- ii. Suggesting remedial measures / plan of action to revive the coastal mangroves in the identified stretches.

**Collector & District Magistrate,
Visakhapatnam District**

**GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
FOREST DEPARTMENT**

Rc.no:822/2024-S2,
Dated: 19.08.2024.

Office of the District Forest Officer,
Visakhapatnam.

From: ✓
Sri Ch.Dharmarakshit, ACF,
District Forest Officer (FAC),
Visakhapatnam.

To
The Vice Chairman & Managing Director, ✓
Visakhapatnam Metropolitan Region
Development Authority, Visakhapatnam.

The Municipal Commissioner, ✓
Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal
Corporation, Visakhapatnam.

The Superintending Engineer, ✓
Department of Irrigation, Visakhapatnam.

The Environmental Engineer,
Regional Office, A.P.Pollution Control
Board, Visakhapatnam.

The Revenue Divisional Officer, ✓
Visakhapatnam.

The Joint Director, ✓
Fisheries Department, Visakhapatnam

Sir,

Sub: National Green Tribunal Original No.881/2024 Suo motu news item published in The New Indian Express dated 25.06.2024 titled "Rapid urbanisation takes toll on Mangroves in Vizag" - Committee constituted - Request to attend Joint inspection on **23.08.2024 at 11.00 AM** - Reg.


Ref: 1. DFO, Visakhapatnam Rc.no.822/2024-S2, dt:02.08.2024
2. Collector & District Magistrate, Visakhapatnam Proceedings No.Committee/O.A.No.881 of 2024, dt:14.08.2024.

It is submitted that vide reference 2nd cited, the Collector & District Magistrate, Visakhapatnam has instructed to submit detailed report duly mentioning remedial measures / plan of action on the following so as to submit a report to the Hon'ble NGT.

In this connection, the Committee members are requested to make it convenient and attend the Joint survey on **23.08.2024 at 11.00 A.M.** to visit the (04) locations viz., (1) Visakhapatnam Port Trust (02) Mulakuddu village, Bheemunipatnam mandal (03) Meghadrigedda drain flowing into Bay of Bengal and (04) Naval Dockyard Bridge to areas like Sheelanagar and Gnanapuram as to submit the detailed report to the Collector & District Magistrate, Visakhapatnam.

This is submitted for favour of kind information.

Yours faithfully,


(Ch. Dharmarakshit) 19/8/2024
District Forest Officer,
Visakhapatnam.

Copy submitted to the Collector & District Magistrate, Visakhapatnam for favour of kind information.

Copy submitted to the Dy. Chairman, Visakhapatnam Port Trust, Visakhapatnam for favour of kind information.

Copy to the Commander, Naval Dockyard, Visakhapatnam for favour of kind information.

Copy to the FRO, Visakhapatnam for information. You are requested to attend the joint survey on 23.08.2024 at 11.00 A.M. and report compliance.

Annexure-D

Report in compliance with the Hon'ble NGT, Principal Bench, New Delhi vide Order dated 23.07.2024 in Original Application No. 881 of 2024 on the News Item titled "Rapid urbanization takes toll on Mangroves in Vizag" which appeared in The New Indian Express dated 25.06.2024.

It is to submit that the Hon'ble NGT, Principal Bench, New Delhi registered *suo-motu case* based on the News Item titled **"Rapid urbanization takes toll on Mangroves in Vizag" which appeared in The New Indian Express dated 25.06.2024.**

The matter relates to significant reduction in the Mangrove stretches in Vishakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh due to rapid urbanization and industrialization. As per the article, these vital ecosystems have been reduced to a few small patches and are now threatened by ongoing development. The article highlights the crucial role mangroves play in protecting shorelines from erosion and providing habitat for diverse wildlife.

The article alleges that historically extensive, these mangroves now exist in small, endangered patches. The Meghadri Gedda, a rain-fed drain flowing into the Bay of Bengal near Visakhapatnam harbour which once supported a vibrant mangrove ecosystem, has been particularly affected, with construction debris posing a significant threat. Furthermore, it is stated that in the 1990s, mangroves stretched from the Naval Dockyard Bridge to areas like Sheela Nagar and Gnanapuram, reaching heights up to 5 metres. However, due to construction and infrastructure development, their size has drastically reduced. By 2008, their height had diminished to 3 metres, and the canopy also shrank.

The article further alleges that the mangrove patch near the Gosthani river mouth in Bheemili is also diminished and awaits replantation approval. A 2023 study by the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education-Coastal Ecosystem Centre (ICFRE-CEC) identified approximately 220 hectares of mangrove patches in the Visakhapatnam district, but these were not included in the Forest Survey of India report. It is stated that the decline in mangrove habitats has also impacted bird species. Near-threatened species like the Eurasian curlew, Oriental darter, and black-headed ibis have seen significant declines. The fishing community, which relies on the mangrove ecosystem for fish production is also facing economic and livelihood challenges.

The Hon'ble NGT, impleaded following respondents in this matter and requested the southern zone bench for appropriate further action and transferred the OA to southern zone bench, Chennai. Copy of the Hon'ble NGT order dated 23.07.2024 in O.A. No. 881 of 2024 (PB) is submitted as Annexure-I.

- (i) Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Through its Regional Office, Integrated Regional Office (Vijayawada), Vijayawada Green House Complex, Gopalareddy Road, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh 520010
- (ii) Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, Andhra Pradesh, Aranya Bhavan, P.V.S. Land Mark, Near APIIC Towers, Mangalagiri, Guntur District, Andhra Pradesh 522503
- (iii) Chief Wildlife Warden, Andhra Pradesh, Aranya Bhawan, K.M. Munshi Road, Nagarampalem, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh 522004
- (iv) National Coastal Zone Management Authority, Through its Chairperson, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jorbagh Road, New Delhi - 110 003
- (v) Andhra Pradesh Coastal Zone Management Authority, Through its Chairman, D.No. 33-26-14 D/2, Near Sunrise Hospital, Chalamavari Street, Kasturibaipet, Vijayawada -520010
- (vi) District Magistrate, Visakhapatnam, National Informatics Centre, Collectorate, Maharani-peta, Visakhapatnam-530002

Accordingly, the Collector & District Magistrate, Visakhapatnam district vide proceedings dated 14.08.2024 has constituted a committee with the following members:

1.	District Forest Officer, Forest Department, Visakhapatnam	Chairman
2.	Revenue Divisional Officer, Visakhapatnam	Member
3.	Municipal Commissioner, Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation, Visakhapatnam	Member
4.	VC & MD, Visakhapatnam Metropolitan Region Development Authority, Visakhapatnam	Member
5.	Joint Director, Fisheries Department, Visakhapatnam	Member
6.	Superintending Engineer, Department of Irrigation, Visakhapatnam.	Member
7.	Environmental Engineer, Regional Office, A.P. Pollution Control Board, Visakhapatnam	Member

Further, the committee was directed to submit detailed report duly mentioning remedial measures/plan of action on the following so as to submit the report to the Hon'ble NGT:

- i. Assessing the impact on the Mangrove stretches in Visakhapatnam due to rapid urbanization / industrialization as alleged in the news article, especially in the following areas a) Meghadrigedda drain & b) Gosthani river mouth near Bheemili.
- ii. Suggesting remedial measures / plan of action to revive the coastal mangroves in the identified stretches.

Copy of the Collector & District Magistrate, Visakhapatnam district vide proceedings dated 14.08.2024 is submitted as Annexure-II.

The District Forest officer, IFS requested the committee members vide letter Rc. No. 822/2024-S2 dated 19.08.2024, to attend the joint survey on 23.08.2024 to visit 04 locations viz., 1. Visakhapatnam Port Trust 2. Mulakuddu village, Bheemunipatnam Mandal 3. Meghadrigedda drain flowing into Bay of Bengal and 4. Naval Dockyard bridge to areas like Sheelanagar and Gnanapuram to submit detail report to the Collector & District Magistrate. Copy of the DFO letter dated 19.08.2024 submitted as Annexure-III.

As per the proceedings, the committee members along with the VPA representatives inspected the Meghadrigedda drain on 23.08.2024 and Gosthani river mouth near Bheemili on 24.08.2024.

Importance of mangroves:

Mangroves are listed under CRZ-1A as part of Coastal Regulatory Zone guidelines 2018 issued by the Government of India implying they are accorded highest protection status and cannot be destroyed.

Mangroves are harbour for the rich biodiversity and protect against the adverse impacts of tropical cyclones and associated wave surges.

Mangroves has the ability to sequester highest amount of carbon from atmosphere which is at least four to five times the amount sequestered by any other forest ecosystem.

Mangroves constitute a major part of the Blue Carbon and positively impact the marine ecosystem too in a profound manner.

Assessment of Impact

1. Extent of Degradation:

There has been a significant reduction in mangrove coverage near the Meghadrigedda downstream and opposite Solar Power Plant of VPA, one of the targeted areas, primarily attributed to road expansion and industrial expansion.

The committee has observed Coal stacking within the last mangrove patch opposite the Solar Power Plant of VPA and filling mangrove potential areas with debris for land use in multiple locations.

The Meghadrigedda drain and the Gosthani river mouth near Bheemunipatnam have been identified as critical areas where mangrove stretches are severely affected.

2. Ecological Consequences:

The degradation of these mangrove ecosystems has resulted in reduced shoreline protection, leading to increased erosion and vulnerability to coastal hazards, especially near INS Dega bridge, VPA.

There has been a notable decline in local biodiversity, impacting various species like Ruddy shellducks, Painted Storks, Sand pipers, Plovers, Terek Sandpiper, Sea gulls and Terns that depend on mangroves for habitat and breeding during their winter migration.

(ref: <https://ebird.org/hotspot/L6442143/bird-list> ;
<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L13947563/bird-list> ;
<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L6462785/bird-list>)

S. no.	Location inspected by the committee	Potential reason of threat to mangroves at the location	Remarks/ Suggestions
1	Opposite Solar Power Plant of VPA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cutting of mangroves for road extension. • Coal stacking overlapping the existing mangrove patch. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify potential areas of VPA to grow mangroves. • Close all diverting channels of drains and sewage and

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multiple channels of drainage running into the mangroves. 	retain natural backwater channels within the mangroves which helps in regeneration of mangroves.
2	INS Dega Bridge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deposition of debris on existing mangroves. • Severe erosion of banks due to <i>Prosopis juliflora</i> growth. • Destruction of habitat due to road extension activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removal of <i>Prosopis juliflora</i> and introduction of native sand binders along the edges of Meghadrigedda downstream along with restoration of mangroves.
3	Bharat Petroleum Bridge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Prosopis juliflora</i> outgrowing mangroves. • Industrial waste/oil spilled into the water channel. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removal of <i>Prosopis juliflora</i>. • Block the sewage channel running into the Meghadrigedda downstream.
4	Sardar Vallbbhai Patel Bridge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sewage water entering directly into the mangrove patches at multiple locations. • Debris accumulated by industries at mangrove adjacent locations. • Threat to habitat due to extension of railway track. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide separate drain channel for sewage afar from the mangrove vegetation within VPA. • Removal of debris along the stream of Meghadrigedda. • VPA shall ensure that no debris is further dumped near or in the adjoining mangrove areas of VPA. • Avoid further extension of railway tracks adjoining the mangrove patches of VPA.
5	Gosthani river mouth, Bheemili	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extensive outgrowth of <i>Prosopis juliflora</i> in the natural 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immediate removal of <i>Prosopis juliflora</i>.

		<p>mangrove habitat.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced supply of freshwater from the upstream causing slow growth of mangrove species. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of channels and sub channels for necessitating extensive mangrove growth and cover.
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Table 1: threats and suggestions for the inspected locations by the committee

Suggested Remedial Measures:

Further it is to submit that the District Forest officer Visakhapatnam has submitted a Detailed Project Report to VPA for improvement of mangroves addressing the importance of mangroves and which highly degraded patch in VPA area a proposal for collaboration with Andhra Pradesh Forest Department for restoration and improvement of mangrove cover and submitted a Detailed Project Report to VPA for improvement of mangroves. Hence, it is requested to take forward the proposal made by the Forest Department for rejuvenating the mangroves in Visakhapatnam a DPR is enclosed herewith.

To mitigate the adverse effects and revive the coastal mangroves in Visakhapatnam, the committee proposes the following remedial measures:

i. Mangrove Restoration:

- Identify the extent of mangrove patch in entire VPA limits (including inspected locations and other areas adjacent to the channels, drains in and around the mangrove patch) and conserve the area.
- Implement a comprehensive reforestation program focused on the affected areas, particularly around the Meghadrigedda drain, mangrove patch opposite the Solar Power Plant of VPA and Gosthani river mouth, Bheemili.
- Identify and subdue the entry of sewage and other drains into the mangrove patches within VPA.
- Removal of *Prosopis juliflora* to promote growth of species of mangroves and their associates.

- Collaborate with local communities and environmental NGOs to ensure the success of reforestation efforts.

ii. Strict Regulation of Urban Expansion:

- Submit an EIA report and PBR report to help developing strategies to conserve and mitigate notable threats to mangroves.
- Enforce stringent regulations on urban and industrial expansion in proximity to mangrove ecosystems to prevent further degradation.
- Develop buffer zones around existing mangrove stretches to protect them from encroachment.

iii. Awareness and Education:

- Initiate public awareness campaigns highlighting the importance of mangroves for coastal protection and biodiversity.
- Engage with local schools and educational institutions to promote environmental stewardship among younger generations.

iv. Monitoring and Reporting:

- Establish a monitoring system to regularly assess the health of mangrove ecosystems in Visakhapatnam.
- Monitor and evaluate the seasonal migration in birds and their dependency within and around the mangrove patches to further develop their habitat.
- Submit quarterly reports to the concerned authorities to ensure transparency and accountability in the implementation of remedial. Measures.

Suggestions:

- The practices above mentioned would help rejuvenate the mangroves within VPA limits by providing protection against adverse impacts of tropical cyclones and associated wave surges.
- Will improve the quality of mangroves and enhances the greenery and biodiversity that also supports the marine ecosystem.
- Safeguard the last surviving mangrove patch of the city and provide potential habitats for winter migrants and various endangered bird species.
- Necessary actions would help display commitment of VPA authorities towards sustainable development and strengthen fight against climate change.

- A 2023 study by the ICFRE-CEC identified 220 hectares of mangrove patches in the Visakhapatnam district, but these were not included in the Forest Survey of India report needs to be included in FSI report.

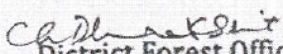
Conclusion:

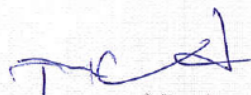
The committee strongly recommends immediate action to address the degradation of mangrove ecosystems in Visakhapatnam. The proposed measures, if implemented effectively, will not only restore the mangroves but also safeguard the region against future environmental challenges. VPA shall ensure that there is no violation of the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, CRZ Rules 1991 and Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

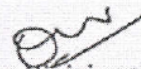
We kindly request the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal to consider the recommendations provided in this report and to direct the relevant authorities for timely implementation.


It is submitted that, the above Suo Motu (O.A. No. 881 of 2024 (PB)) case has been transferred to Southern Zone Bench, Chennai and renumbered as O.A No. 256 of 2024 (SZ) vide order dated 24.09.2024 and the matter hearing posted on 26.11.2024. Copy of the order dated 24.09.2024 is submitted as Annexure- IV.

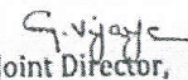
This Submitted for favor of information and necessary action.


District Forest Officer,
Forest Department,
Visakhapatnam

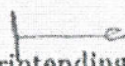

Environmental Engineer
Regional Office, APPCB


Revenue Divisional Officer,
Visakhapatnam


SE-IV, Engineering section
GVMC, Visakhapatnam


Joint Director,
Fisheries Department, Visakhapatnam


VMRDA, Visakhapatnam


Superintending Engineer,
Department of Irrigation, Visakhapatnam.

Item No. 06

Court No. 1

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI**

Original Application No. 881/2024

News Item titled "Rapid urbanisation takes toll on Mangroves in Vizag" appearing in The New Indian Express dated 25.06.2024

Date of hearing: 23.07.2024

**CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE PRAKASH SHRIVASTAVA, CHAIRPERSON
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ARUN KUMAR TYAGI, JUDICIAL MEMBER
HON'BLE DR. A. SENTHIL VEL, EXPERT MEMBER**

ORDER

1. This Original Application is registered *suo-motu* on the basis of the news item titled "Rapid urbanisation takes toll on Mangroves in Vizag" appearing in The New Indian Express dated 25.06.2024.

2. The matter relates to significant reduction in the Mangrove stretches in Vishakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh due to rapid urbanization and industrialization. As per the article, these vital ecosystems have been reduced to a few small patches and are now threatened by ongoing development. The article highlights that this loss is concerning given the crucial role mangroves play in protecting shorelines from erosion and providing habitat for diverse wildlife.

3. The article alleges that historically extensive, these mangroves now exist in small, endangered patches. The Meghadri Gedda, a rain-fed drain flowing into the Bay of Bengal near Visakhapatnam harbour which once supported a vibrant mangrove ecosystem, has been particularly affected, with construction debris posing a significant threat. Furthermore, it is stated that in the 1990s, mangroves stretched from the Naval Dockyard Bridge to areas like Sheela Nagar and Gnanapuram, reaching heights up to 5 metres. However, due to construction and infrastructure development, their size has drastically reduced. By 2008, their height had diminished to 3 metres, and the canopy also shrank.

-

4. The article further alleges that the mangrove patch near the Gosthani river mouth in Bheemili is also diminished and awaits replantation approval. A 2023 study by the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education-Coastal Ecosystem Centre (ICFRE-CEC) identified approximately 220 hectares of mangrove patches in the Visakhapatnam district, but these were not included in the Forest Survey of India report. It is stated that the decline in mangrove habitats has also impacted bird species. Near-threatened species like the Eurasian curlew, Oriental darter, and black-headed ibis have seen significant declines. The fishing community, which relies on the mangrove ecosystem for fish production is also facing economic and livelihood challenges.

5. The above news item indicates violation of the provisions of The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, CRZ Rules 1991 and Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

6. The news item raises substantial issue relating to compliance of the environmental norms and implementation of the provisions of scheduled enactment.

7. Power of the Tribunal to take up the matter *suo-motu* has been recognized by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the matter of "*Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai vs. Ankita Sinha & Ors.*" reported in 2021 *SCC Online SC 897*.

8. Hence, we implead following as respondents in this matter:

- (i) Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Through its Regional Office, Integrated Regional Office (Vijayawada), Vijayawada Green House Complex, Gopalareddy Road, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh 520010

- (ii) Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, Andhra Pradesh, Aranya Bhavan, P.V.S.Land Mark, Near APIIC Towers, Mangalagiri, Guntur District, Andhra Pradesh 522503
- (iii) Chief Wildlife Warden, Andhra Pradesh, Aranya Bhawan, K.M. Munshi Road, Nagarampalem, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh 522004
- (iv) National Coastal Zone Management Authority, Through its Chairperson, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jorbagh Road, New Delhi – 110 003
- (v) Andhra Pradesh Coastal Zone Management Authority, Through its Chairman, D.No. 33-26-14 D/2, Near Sunrise Hospital, Chalamavari Street, Kasturibaipet, Vijayawada - 520010
- (vi) District Magistrate, Visakhapatnam, National Informatics Centre, Collectorate, Maharanieta, Visakhapatnam-530002

9. Let notice be issued to the above Respondents for filing their response before the appropriate bench of the Tribunal.

10. Since the matter relates to the Southern Zonal Bench, Chennai, therefore, OA is transferred to the Southern Zonal Bench for appropriate further action. Office is directed to transfer the original record of the OA to Southern Zonal Bench, Chennai.

11. List before Southern Zonal Bench at Chennai on 23.09.2024.

Prakash Shrivastava, CP

Arun Kumar Tyagi, JM

Dr. A. Senthil Vel, EM

July 23, 2024
Original Application No. 881/2024
AS.

Proceedings No. Committee/OA.No.881 of 2024 dated 05.05.2023

**Present: M.N.Harendhira Prasad IAS
Collector & District Magistrate, Visakhapatnam**

Sub: National Green Tribunal Original No. 881/2024 Suo motu news item published in The New Indian Express dated 25.06.2024 titled "Rapid urbanisation takes toll on Mangroves in Vizag" - Committee constituted - Reg.,

Ref: 1. The Hon'ble NGT Order dated 23.07.2024 in OA No. 881/2024.
2. Rc No. 822/2024/S2 dated 02.08.2024 of the District Forest Officer, Visakhapatnam.

The National Green Tribunal, New Delhi has registered a *suo-motu case* on the basis of the news item titled "Rapid urbanization takes toll on Mangroves in Vizag" which appeared in The New Indian Express dated 25.06.2024.

The matter relates to significant reduction in the Mangrove stretches in Vishakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh due to rapid urbanization and industrialization. As per the article, these vital ecosystems have been reduced to a few small patches and are now threatened by ongoing development. The article highlights the crucial role mangroves play in protecting shorelines from erosion and providing habitat for diverse wildlife.

The Hon'ble NGT in its Order dated 23.07.2024 in OA No. 881/2024 implead (vi) District Magistrate, Visakhapatnam, for filing response before the appropriate bench of the Tribunal in this matter.

In this regard, a Committee is hereby constituted with the following members:

1.	District Forest Officer, Forest Department, Visakhapatnam	Chairman
2.	Revenue Divisional Officer, Visakhapatnam	Member
3.	Municipal Commissioner, Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation, Visakhapatnam	Member
4.	VC & MD, Visakhapatnam Metropolitan Region Development Authority, Visakhapatnam	Member
5.	Joint Director, Fisheries Department, Visakhapatnam	Member
6.	Superintending Engineer, Department of Irrigation, Visakhapatnam.	Member
7.	Environmental Engineer, Regional Office, A.P. Pollution Control Board, Visakhapatnam	Member

The committee is directed to submit detailed report duly mentioning remedial measures/plan of action on the following so as to submit a report to the Hon'ble NGT:

- i. Assessing the impact on the Mangrove stretches in Visakhapatnam due to rapid urbanization / industrialization as alleged in the news article, especially in the following areas a) Meghadrigedda drain & b) Gosthani river mouth near Bheemili.
- ii. Suggesting remedial measures / plan of action to revive the coastal mangroves in the identified stretches.

**Collector & District Magistrate,
Visakhapatnam District**

Annexure-III

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
FOREST DEPARTMENT

Rc.no:822/2024-S2,
Dated: 19.08.2024.

Office of the District Forest Officer,
Visakhapatnam.

From: ✓
Sri Ch.Dharmarakshit, ACF,
District Forest Officer (FAC),
Visakhapatnam.

To
The Vice Chairman & Managing Director, ✓
Visakhapatnam Metropolitan Region
Development Authority, Visakhapatnam.

The Municipal Commissioner, ✓
Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal
Corporation, Visakhapatnam.

The Superintending Engineer, ✓
Department of Irrigation, Visakhapatnam.

The Environmental Engineer,
Regional Office, A.P.Pollution Control
Board, Visakhapatnam.

The Revenue Divisional Officer, ✓
Visakhapatnam.

The Joint Director, ✓
Fisheries Department, Visakhapatnam

Sir,

Sub: National Green Tribunal Original No.881/2024 Suo motu news item published in The New Indian Express dated 25.06.2024 titled "Rapid urbanisation takes toll on Mangroves in Vizag" - Committee constituted - Request to attend Joint inspection on **23.08.2024 at 11.00 AM** - Reg.


Ref: 1. DFO, Visakhapatnam Rc.no.822/2024-S2, dt:02.08.2024
2. Collector & District Magistrate, Visakhapatnam Proceedings No.Committee/O.A.No.881 of 2024, dt:14.08.2024.

It is submitted that vide reference 2nd cited, the Collector & District Magistrate, Visakhapatnam has instructed to submit detailed report duly mentioning remedial measures / plan of action on the following so as to submit a report to the Hon'ble NGT.

In this connection, the Committee members are requested to make it convenient and attend the Joint survey on **23.08.2024 at 11.00 A.M.** to visit the (04) locations viz., (1) Visakhapatnam Port Trust (02) Mulakuddu village, Bheemunipatnam mandal (03) Meghadrigedda drain flowing into Bay of Bengal and (04) Naval Dockyard Bridge to areas like Sheelanagar and Gnanapuram as to submit the detailed report to the Collector & District Magistrate, Visakhapatnam.

This is submitted for favour of kind information.

Yours faithfully,


(Ch. Dharmarakshit) 19/8/2024
District Forest Officer,
Visakhapatnam.

Copy submitted to the Collector & District Magistrate, Visakhapatnam for favour of kind information.

Copy submitted to the Dy. Chairman, Visakhapatnam Port Trust, Visakhapatnam for favour of kind information.

Copy to the Commander, Naval Dockyard, Visakhapatnam for favour of kind information.

Copy to the FRO, Visakhapatnam for information. You are requested to attend the joint survey on 23.08.2024 at 11.00 A.M. and report compliance.

**GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
FOREST DEPARTMENT**

Rc.no. 946/2017/TO,
Dated:20.05.2023

Office of the District Forest Officer,
Visakhapatnam.

From:

Sri Anant Shankar, IFS
District Forest Officer,
Visakhapatnam.

To

The Deputy Chairman,
Visakhapatnam Port Trust,
Visakhapatnam.

Sir,

Sub: VPT- Mangrove cover in VPT- highly degraded patch- proposal for collaboration with Andhra Pradesh Forest Department for restoration and improvement of mangrove cover-submission of-regarding

I wish to inform that there is a mangrove cover existing in the limits of the Visakhapatnam Port Trust. This is the only patch of mangroves in the entire district of Visakhapatnam. I further wish to bring your kind attention to the fact that mangroves are listed under CRZ-1A as part of Coastal Regulatory Zone guidelines 2018 issued by the Government of India implying they are accorded highest protection status and cannot be destroyed.

In this regard, it is submitted that the mangrove patch in the VPT limits is in degraded condition due to several factors and needs utmost attention. I am enclosing the satellite imageries of these patches as well as actual photographs taken on the ground for your kind perusal. I hereby submit a proposal for collaboration with the Visakhapatnam division, Andhra Pradesh Forest Department for rejuvenating the mangroves available with the VPT. This noble initiative will help do wonders with the mangroves; the rich biodiversity they harbour and can help display commitment of the VPT authorities towards sustainable development. It will further strengthen our hands in fight against climate change as mangroves are the most potent weapon available to humankind in view of their ability to sequester highest amount of carbon from atmosphere which is atleast four to five times the amount sequestered by any other forest ecosystem. Mangroves constitute a major part of the Blue Carbon and positively impact the marine ecosystem too in a profound manner.

Therefore, in view of the above, I hereby submit a proposal for collaboration between the Visakhapatnam Port Trust and Visakhapatnam division, Andhra Pradesh Forest Department for rejuvenating the mangroves available in the port limits. I assure that the expertise of Forest department in mangroves' restoration with the support from Visakhapatnam Port Trust will ensure a very effective contribution to the environment and to the city of Visakhapatnam and this nation. I look forward to your response regarding this.

This is submitted for favour of information and request for necessary action.

Encl: Detailed Project Report (DPR)
Forrestoration of mangroves enclosed.

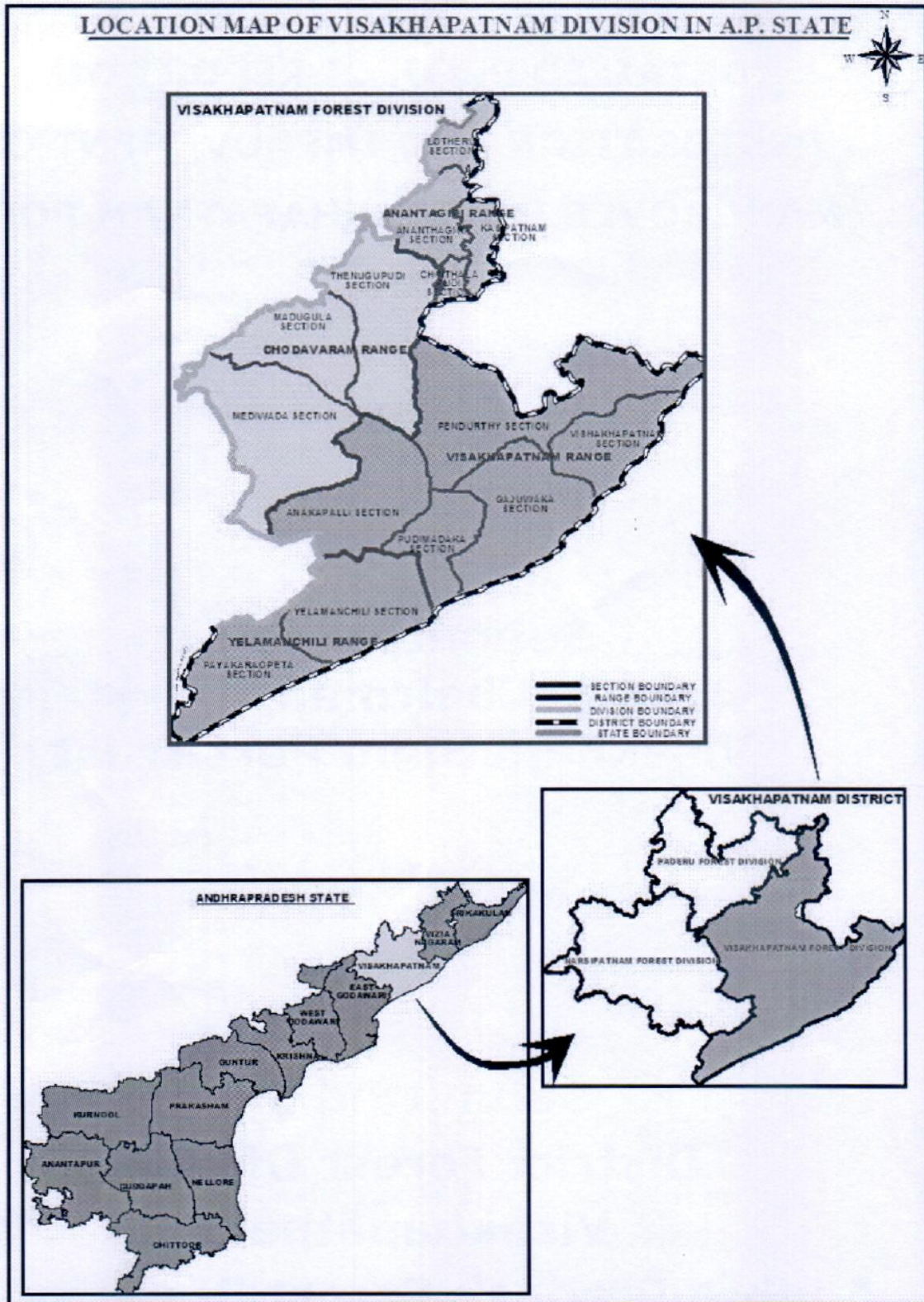
Yours faithfully,

(Anant Shankar)
District Forest Officer,
Visakhapatnam

**DETAILED PROJECT REPORT ON
RESTORATION AND IMPROVEMENT OF
MANGROVES IN VISAKHAPATNAM PORT
TRUST**

**Submitted to :
Chairman,
Visakhapatnam Port Trust**

**Submitted by:
District Forest Officer,
Visakhapatnam
Andhra Pradesh Forest Department**



Map showing the location of

INTRODUCTION

Visakhapatnam district is a coastal district and is fortunate to have been blessed with mangroves which are present only within the limits of the Visakhapatnam Port Trust.

A proposal is being submitted for rejuvenation of these mangroves which are presently in degraded state.

OBJECTIVES OF REJUVENATING THE MANGROVES WITHIN VPT LIMITS

The main objectives of rejuvenating the mangroves are as follows:

- (i) To protect against the adverse impacts of tropical cyclones and associated wave surges.
- (ii) To improve the quality of mangroves and enhance greenery alongside port.
- (iii) To enhance biodiversity in the mangroves which supports marine ecosystem.
- (iv) To conserve the only patch of mangroves in the coastal district of Visakhapatnam.
- (v) To educate the people about the importance of mangroves.
- (vi) To present a success story of rejuvenation of mangroves and sustainable development.

IMPORTANCE OF MANGROVE ECOSYSTEM **SPECIES PROPOSED TO BE RAISED** **METHOD OF RESTORATION OF MANGROVES**

Mangroves are highly specialised vegetation limited to tropical areas. They are generally found in the river deltas and estuarine areas as well as near the

islands. They grow best in areas where the mean annual temperature is in the range 10 - 35°C and where there is a mixture of freshwater and brackish water.

Mangroves are highly salt tolerant and grows in soils devoid of oxygen. In fact, mangroves have adapted to these tough conditions and are among the very few vegetation which can come up in such harsh conditions. Mangroves are often considered one of the best weapons for controlling erosion along coastlines, estuaries, riverbanks and waterways. In addition, they sequester maximum carbon among any natural ecosystem available on the Planet Earth and therefore they are the best tools to fight against climate change. Mangroves enhance and conserve the biodiversity too as they provide home to several smaller floral and faunal species. Many fish species dwell in the mangroves during breeding season as they protect them against bigger natural predators. Further, it has been documented that mangroves help in lowering the pollution levels in water too. Thus, mangroves are nothing short of wonder vegetation in coastal areas.

PROPOSED LOCATION FOR MANGROVE PLANTATIONS AND RESTORATION

The existing patch of mangroves lies in the Visakhapatnam Port Trust limits. The approximate areal cover of mangroves is around 75-90 ha which can be determined exactly after ground-truthing and survey.

The following satellite imageries and photographs provide glimpses of this patch:



Photo 1: Mangrove patch as visible from above ground



Photo 2: Mangrove patch as visible from above ground



Image 1: 1st Mangrove patch in VPT limits



Image 2: 2nd Mangrove patch in VPT limits

Interventions and Action Plan for rejuvenation of Mangroves

In order to improve the quality of mangroves, a slew of interventions are proposed to be taken up. This includes de-silting of channels so as to ensure free flow of tidal waters which will help promote growth and increase canopy density in mangroves. Further, raising of mangrove seedlings and procurement of

seedlings is to be taken up by establishing a nursery near the site. These seedlings can then be planted using AR or ANR method, depending upon the site suitability and availability of areas. Interventions like freshwater provisioning, fencing, if required. Further, it is proposed to develop a boardwalk for walking through the mangroves which presents an altogether different experience. This has already been tried by the forest department in the mangroves of Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary.

The detailed line estimates along with physical and financial outlay is proposed as follows:

Sl. no.	Intervention	Year wise distribution									Amount (Rs.in lakh)
		2023-24			2024-25			2025-26			
		Phy	Unit cost	Fin	Phy	Unit cost	Fin	Phy	Unit cost	Fin	
1	Cost of raising and procurement of mangrove seedlings	50	0.185	9.25							9.25
2	Cost of raising of mangrove plantation over an area of (AR and ANR)	50	1.08	54.00							54.00
4	1st year maintenance of Mangrove plantation				50	0.06	3.00				3.00
5	2nd year maintenance of Mangrove plantation							50	0.06	3.00	3.00
6	Freshwater provisioning	Ls	Ls	15.00							15.00
7	Erection of Chain-link fencing around the plantation area	5400 Sq.mts	186	10.00							10.00
8	Establishment of a mangrove board walk	500 mtrs	0.04	20.00							20.00
8	Erection of display boards for raising awareness on environmental issues and marine ecosystem				Ls	Ls	10.00				10.00

9	Other exigencies and related interventions	Ls	Ls	10.00						10.00
	Total:			118.25			13.00			3.00 134.25
8	Add 15% towards administrative cost			17.74			1.95			0.45 20.14
	Total:			17.74			1.95			0.45 20.14
	Total project cost:			135.99			14.95			3.45 154.39

It is to further inform here that the interest accrued, if any, will be utilized by District Forest Officer, Visakhapatnam for plantation and administrative - related expenses. The utilization certificate for the activities as mentioned above will be submitted as and when the activity is completed as well as before the completion of the financial year.

This is submitted for favor of kind information and request for approval.

(Anant Shankar)
District Forest Officer
Visakhapatnam

Item No.05:

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI**

(Through Video Conference)

Original Application No.256 of 2024 (SZ)

Earlier O.A. No.881 of 2024(PB)

IN THE MATTER OF:

Tribunal on its own motion SUOMOTU based on the News item published in The New Indian Express, dated: 25-06-2024, under the caption "**Rapid urbanisation takes toll on Mangroves in Vizag**".

MOEF & CC,
Through its Regional Office,
AP and Ors.



...Applicant(s)

...Respondent(s)

Date of hearing: 24.09.2024.

CORAM:

HON'BLE Smt. JUSTICE PUSHPA SATHYANARAYANA, JUDICIAL MEMBER

HON'BLE Dr. SATYAGOPAL KORLAPATI, EXPERT MEMBER

For Applicant(s): Suo Motu.

For Respondent(s): Mrs. Madhuri Donti Reddy for R2, R3 & R5 & R6.

ORDER

1. The above case has been Suo Motu registered by the Principal Bench of the National Green Tribunal, New Delhi as Original Application No.881 of 2024(PB) based on the news item published in '*The New Indian Express*' dated 25.06.2024 titled "**Rapid urbanisation takes toll on Mangroves in Vizag**" which has been transferred to this Bench and renumbered as Original Application No.256 of 2024(SZ).

2. Let notice be issued to the respondents through the Tribunal.

3. The learned counsel Mr. Madhuri Donti Reddy accepts notice on behalf of Respondents. No.2, 3, 5 and 6.

4. The learned counsels appearing for the appropriate authorities are directed to take the papers from the Registry and file a report before the next date of hearing.

Let the matter be listed on **26.11.2024**

Sd/-

Smt. Justice Pushpa Sathyanarayana, JM

Sd/-

Dr. Satyagopal Korlapati, EM

O.A. No.256/2024(SZ)
24th September, 2024. AD.